TANISHTHA CHANDRA

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ABOUT ME

I'm a high school senior who is passionate about democratizing financial access for the underserved. I aim to empower underrepresented communities and my peers, especially women, by leveraging current technology. My journey spans across AI app development, finance, economics, and social innovation.

I am a foodie who loves exploring new cuisines and spending time with my family!

EDUCATION

Lake Forest High School, Lake Forest, Illinois - 2022-2026

- GPA: 5.52/5.0

- Top 1% of Graduating Class in terms of Rigor of Coursework throughout High school & GPA

Completed Coursework:
- Plane Solid Geometry Honors (8th Grade)

- Math Analysis Honors (9th)

- AP Statistics (9th)

- AP Calculus BC (10th)

- AP Chemistry (10th)

- AP Computer Science A (10th)

- AP Microeconomics (10th)

- AP Macroeconomics (10th)

- Accounting Honors (Dual Credit) (11th)

- Advanced Computer Science 2 Honors (11th)

- Multivariable Calculus + Advanced Topics in Math Honors (11th)

- Marketing (Dual Credit) (12th)

- Business Principles (Dual Credit) (12th)

- Advanced Computer Science 3 Honors (Dual Credit) (12th)

- AP Physics C: Mechanics (12th)

- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism (12th)

- CPR & First Aid (Dual Credit) (11th, 12th)

AWARDS

- 1st Place @ Northern Illinois Area Conference in Economics, FBLA Illinois (2026)

- 1st Place @ State in Accounting 1, FBLA Illinois (2025)

- 2nd Place @ State in Introduction to Financial Math, FBLA Illinois (2024)

- 1st Place @ State, Computer Science 4 IIllinois Competition

- (International Award) Diplomacy Award at Northwestern University Model United Nations (2025)

- (National Award) United Nations - United States Association Ambassador Awardee

- (State Award) Honorable Delegate at Latin School of Chicago Model United Nations (2025)

- (State Award) Honorable Delegate at Francis Parker Model United Nations (2025)

- (State Award) Honorable Delegate at Saint Ignatius Model United Nations (2024)

- AP Scholar W/ Distinction (2024)

- High Honor Roll (2023-2025)

- Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish (2025)

- Inducted into Cum Laude Society

SKILLS

- Adaptability

- Collaboration

- Compassion

- Creativity

- Effective Communication

- Financial Literacy

- Leadership

- Problem-solving

- Visionary Thinking

EXTRACURRICULARS
- ## IN-SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

  - **Lake Forest High School Career Connections, Board Member, 2025 - Present**
    - This Board aims to connect LFHS students with job-shadowing and internship opportunities in industries ranging from finance to healthcare.
    - Only student on the board; representing 1300 Lake Forest High School students.
    - Collaborated with Associate Principal, High School Administration, District 115 School Board, and Lake Forest Chamber Of Commerce to connect 50 students to internship & job shadowing opportunities.

  - **FBLA Connect & Expand, Founder, 2024 - Present**
    - FBLA Connect & Expand aims to connect FBLA members to mentorship, job-shadowing, and internship opportunities in Business.
    - The success of this program prompted a revamp of the 'Career Pathway' Program at my school.
    - Connected 30 members to professional mentorship in their respective areas of interest.
    - Connected 13 members to job shadowing/internship opportunities.
    - Taught members business & financial concepts.

  - **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), President, 2022 - Present**
    - Raised $1200 which allowed students to participate in State Competition free of cost, also covered part of cost for students attending National Competition.
    - Increased Club Membership by 500%.
    - Helped 15 members prepare for their state exams, of which 4 qualified for the National Leadership Conference by winning Top 5 at State in their respective events.

  - **Principal Advisory Council, Co-President, 2022 - Present**
    - Only student to be on the council for all four years.
    - Individually selected by principal as 1 of 2 students my freshman year (350-student class).
    - Working with District 115 school board to subsidize the cost of AP Exams for students.
    - Implemented Activity Bus system that increased extracurricular participation in my school by 100%.
    - Negotiating with Quest Food, our cafeteria supplier, to bring healthier options into the cafeteria.

  - **Lake Forest High School Model United Nations (LFMUN) Conference, Secretariat General, 2025-2026**
    - Secretariat General of First LFHS Model United Nations Conference, with over 100+ middle school students across Lake County attending.
    - Overseeing 25 staff members and 5 committees.
    - Coordinating logistics, scheduling, and committee topics.
    - Fostering an engaging and educational MUN experience.

- - **Lake Forest High School Model United Nations Team, Secretariat, 2022 - Present**
    - Represent the Delegation of the United Kingdom & Manage the Europe Bloc (20 members) during weekly meetings.
    - Train and mentor 30 delegates for state and international-level conferences, help delegates develop public-speaking and leadership skills to be successful in committees of 90+ delegates.

  - **Peer Tutor, 2022 - Present**
    - Tutor native Spanish speakers/English as a Second Language students in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Chemistry.
    - Peer Tutored over 20 students.

OUT–OF–SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT & PROJECTS

- - **STEMpowerHer, Chief Research Officer & Hackathon Founder, 2024-Present**
    - Empowered 5,000+ underrepresented minority girls across 50+ countries by creating coding workshops teaching Python and Java, and establishing International STEM Journal receiving 40+ submissions from 15+ countries
    - Founded hackathon series attracting 200+ participants per event; secured 5 corporate sponsorships (CodeCrafters, Interview Buddy, CleanShot, UniBee, Gen.xyz) offering $9k prize value for
    - Recruited 14 professional judges from Meta (ML Engineer), Amazon (Software Engineer), Pinterest (Staff ML Engineer), Walmart (Senior SWE), Wayfair (Engineering Leader), Oracle, Johnson & Johnson, Paramount, American Airlines
    - Designed week-long virtual hackathon with 5 competition tracks (AI for Good, Climate & Agriculture, Women's Safety, HealthTech, EdTech), professional judging rubrics, and asynchronous global delivery via Devpost platform
    - Paired participants with software engineers at major tech companies to mentor them through building social impact applications addressing healthcare access (Nigeria), education platforms (Pakistan), and agricultural solutions (rural India)
    - Built infrastructure including Discord server with 25 staff members, participant packet with judging criteria, and workshop resources enabling participants to teach each other across countries and time zones

  - **OutsideConnections, National Outreach Manager, 2024-2025**
    - OutsideConnections is a national job platform dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society by connecting them with fair-chance employers.
    - Operating in all 50 U.S. states and over 120 cities, the platform has helped more than 10,000 reentrants secure employment.
    - Established partnerships with 5 organizations in California and Florida.
    - Connected organization to the California State Gov Reentrant Initiatives.
    - Left the Organization because they became for-profit.

- **Advanced Economics for Leaders, Foundation for Teaching Economics @ UCLA, July - August 2024**
    - Selected to participate in the Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE) summer program focused on integrating advanced economic reasoning and real-world decision-making into classroom and policy contexts.
    - Explored key concepts in advanced microeconomics, advanced macroeconomics, and economic policy, applying analytical frameworks to contemporary global issues through simulations and discussions.

AI CAPSTONE PROJECTS
- ## AI PROJECTS, 2024 – Present

    - **HerStory App - Financial Advocacy by Female Role Models for Today's Youth**
        - HerStory connects youth and young women to digital representations of successful leaders in finance, making financial literacy education accessible through interactive conversations.
        - Employed Natural Language Processing, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS to program HerStory.

    - **BuzzTrade App - NLP+Finance, Stock Sentiment Predictor**
        - BuzzTrade - NLP + Finance, Stock Sentiment Predictor, is an app that predicts stock movement based on social media posts and news related to a particular stock. It also predicts changes in investor sentiment based on tariff news input.
        - Developed using Machine Learning, Python, HTML, Java, and Jupyter Notebook.

    - **HealthyHabits App - Special Calendars to help Students with Learning Disabilities**
        - Healthy Habits is an app designed for students who suffer from ADHD, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, or Auditory Processing Disorder as well as student athletes.
        - It uses a smart algorithm based on exponential weighted averaging to schedule a student's homework and study sessions around other commitments, while accommodating any learning disabilities the student may have.
        - Incorporates Healthy Habits, like breaks, snacks, and showers.
        - Used Python, HTML, and CSS to program Healthy Habits.

RESEARCH PROJECT

- ## RESEARCH, 2025– Present
  - *Topic of Research: "AI Companions as Non-Judgmental Allies: Democratizing Financial & Mental Health Support for Underserved"*
    - Researching how AI can be used to democratize access to financial and mental health support for underserved communities.
      - Researched applications of large language models (LLMs) to democratize access to financial guidance and mental health support for underserved populations.
      - Collected, filtered, and anonymized multi-domain dialogue datasets to ensure privacy-preserving model training.
      - Fine-tuned empathetic LLMs (e.g., Llama 3, GPT) on domain-specific data to enhance contextual understanding and emotional intelligence in AI responses.
      - Developed a context-aware conversational framework integrating emotion recognition, risk detection, and content filtering modules.
      - Implemented safety and factual guardrails to ensure responsible and bias-mitigated responses aligned with ethical AI standards.
      - Evaluating model performance using:
        - Accuracy & F1-score: measured correctness and balance of model predictions;
        - BLEU/ROUGE: assessed response fluency and coherence in dialogues;
        - MSE (Mean Squared Error): tracked sentiment prediction precision with additional focus on latency and real-time user experience for deployment readiness.

    - Researching under Mr. Odysseas Drosis (Cornell MS, PhD, Data Scientist @ HP).

WORK EXPERIENCE

- ## INTERNSHIP AT JPMORGAN CHASE, 2025
  - Currently interning at Wealth Management Department at a community branch.
  - Studying how equities, bonds, and funds drive portfolio growth, risk management, and wealth strategies to achieve client financial goals.
    - Conducted quantitative analyses of equities, fixed-income instruments, and mutual funds/ETFs, modeling portfolio performance using Monte Carlo simulations, modern portfolio theory (MPT), and efficient frontier optimization techniques.
    - Monitored market and macroeconomic indicators (interest rates, inflation, earnings data) to support sector rotation strategies and risk management decisions.
    - Used Morningstar to research and compare different investments based on performance, risk, and diversification.